

Course Code & Title	:	HL8201 Cultural Encounters: Understanding and Deconstructing East and West
Academic Unit	:	3 AU
Pre-requisite	:	Nil
Course Description	:	

HL8201 Cultural Encounters: Understanding and Deconstructing East and West
[Lectures: 39 hours; Pre-requisites: Nil; Academic Unit: 3.0]

Learning Objective

Concepts of East and West have long been identified as opposing binaries; however, what exactly are East and West? In today's increasingly globalized world, people, texts, and materials flow from a wide variety of locations and in seemingly convoluted directions at extreme speeds, forcing encounters of difference, hybridization and resistance in myriad contexts and forms.

Content

The first half of this course will introduce students to this new global reality and interrogate these constructed dichotomies by examining cinema from Hollywood, Hong Kong, China, Southeast Asia and Europe in order to learn to better understand processes of representation, differentiation and convergence. During the second half of the course students will come to understand that this encounter is not new by being introduced to the travels of Marco Polo, the idealizations of the east of Romantic poets and also come to understand how these attitudes continue to have impact in contemporary literature.

Course Outline

S/N	Topic	Lecture Hours	Tutorial Hours
Section 1			
1	Cinematic Expressions <i>Chungking Express</i> , Wong Kar-wai Deconstructing East and West	3	0
2	The West Looking East -- Orientalism <i>The Cheat</i> , Cecil B. deMille <i>The World of Suzy Wong</i> , Ray Stark	3	0
3	The East Reaching Out Bruce Lee, <i>Fists of Fury</i> (1971)	3	0
4	<i>Raise the Red Lantern</i> , Zhang Yimou <i>The World</i> , Jia Zhangke	3	0

S/N	Topic	Lecture Hours	Tutorial Hours
5	Mutual Exchange <i>Infernal Affairs & The Departed</i> , Martin Scorsese Hollywood and the rest of the world <i>She, a Chinese</i> , Xiaolu Guo	3	0
6	<i>Beautiful</i> , Alejandro González Iñárritu Global Co-Production	3	0
Section 2 – Literary Representations			
7	Early Travel Narratives Rustichello da Pisa, <i>The Travels of Marco Polo: Book II</i> Samuel Purchas, <i>Purchas, his Pilgrimage</i>	3	0
8	Samuel Taylor Coleridge, “Kubla Kahn.” Thomas deQuincey, “The Opium Question in China in 1840,” “Confessions of an English Opium Eater.”	3	0
9	Romantic Inspirations George Dance, <i>A Chinese Honeymoon</i>		
10	Re-imagined Chinese Texts oltaire, “Dialogues: The Chinese Catechism,” <i>The Orphan of China</i> ,	3	0
11	Bertold Brecht, <i>The Good Person of Szechuan</i>	3	0
12	Zen Trends Robert Persig, <i>Zen and The Art of Motorcycle Maintenance</i>	3	0
13	Chinese Diaspora Kuo Pao Kun, <i>The Descendents of the Eunuch Admiral</i>	3	0

Learning Outcome

By the end of the course, students will understand the basic cultural concepts of East and West. From this contemporary perspective, East and West are easily recognized as the essentialist constructions that they are. Furthermore, this contemporary perspective can actually serve as an important reminder that there have never been boundaries that definitively separate the two – nor has there been a unified East or West – even while we become increasingly aware that these are powerful cultural concepts that are all but impossible to escape.

Student Assessment

Students will be assessed by:

- a) 10% Participation
- b) 45% three short essays 2-3 pages (focused on Section 1)
- c) 45% Essay 2 (focused on Section 2) – This essay should be 1200 – 1500 words. It should critically engage one of the primary texts of the course – while also engaging the themes of the course in a meaningful way (although it might also stake out new thematic territory).

Textbooks/References

- a) Edward Said, *Orientalism*
- b) Rustichello da Pisa, *The Travels of Marco Polo: Book II*
- c) Samuel Purchas, *Purchas, his Pilgrimage*
- d) Bertold Brecht, *The Good Person of Szechuan*
- e) Robert Persig, *Zen and The Art of Motorcycle Maintenance*

Course Code & Title : HS8201 Space Place and the City

Academic Unit : 3 AU

Pre-requisite : Nil

Course Description :

HS8201 Space, Place and the City

[Lectures: 39 hours; Pre-requisites: Nil; Academic Unit: 3.0]

Learning Objective

The goal of the course is to familiarize and engage students in a variety of experiences and discussions of the nature of space and place in the city –the abstract forms and geometries as well as social and cultural constructions of meanings that shape urban life from intimacy to internet. To do so, we will weave together readings, site visits and reflections upon the varied experiences students bring to the class. Students will be expected to participate actively, but by regular postings, weekly reflections and a final project drawing on these materials.

Given the displacement involved in the course, all materials will be available on line or as ebooks. Some materials –plans, visual materials, short texts, will also be distributed in class. Assignments should be shared online as well.

Content

This course will offer an investigation of a broad range of conceptual approaches to the idea of space, in terms of locations, urban centres, the city, as well as a consideration of public spaces versus private spheres in a multidisciplinary sense that includes a broad range of disciplinary focuses include Asian and Western considerations.

Course Outline

S/N	Topic	Lecture Hours	Tutorial Hours
Before the first Week of Class, read Tuan, 1-85			
Week 1 – Public, Private, Domestic			
1	Introduction, Discussion Public and Private, Self and Other Questions: How do You Define Public and Private? How do These Definitions Vary By Age, Class, Gender and Culture?	3	0

S/N	Topic	Lecture Hours	Tutorial Hours
	Reading: Daunton “Public Space and Private Place,” Lane 128-132 Supplementary, Marc Warner?		
2	Experiencing Social Space: Kitchens Question: What is the Kitchen Like in Your Home? Reading: Henderson, “A Revolution in the Women’s Sphere,” Lane, 248-58 Bed and Bath Question: When are you alone? Why? Reading: Sidlauskas:, “Degas and the Sexuality of the Interior,” Lane,178-95 Rubin, “A Bathroom is a Bathroom” from <i>Toilets, Toasters and Telephones: The How and Why of Everyday Objects</i> (1998) 1-29 (many illustrations...)	3	0
3	Thresholds Questions: How do We Define Edges? Look out? Look In? Beckham, “The American Front Porch,” Lane, 86-93 Isenstadt, “The Rise and Fall of the Picture Window,” Lane 198-209 (Singapore and Tianjin Students: consider Balconies, Corridors and Elevators)	3	0
Read Tuan 86-136 before Week 2			
Week II Expanding Horizons			
4	High Rises Question: American Dwellings outside of a few city centers have been dominated by lowrise construction (1-3 stories) and often by detached, single family homes. How does this experience differ from high-rises, often seen as dangerous in the U.S. but not elsewhere, including Singapore and Tianjin? Readings: Ravets or Fuerst Lane Rooney (HK skyscrapers) Supplementary	3	0

ANNEX A – INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL COURSE DETAILS

S/N	Topic	Lecture Hours	Tutorial Hours
5	<p>Eating Out How do we create private spaces in public? Readings: (tuan) Spencer-Wood, "The World Their Household," Lane 163-177</p> <p>Laughing Together How do we watch movies? Readings: (Tuan) McDonogh and Wong, "Consuming Cinema in Hong Kong"</p>	3	0
6	<p>Experiencing Nature Readings: (Tuan) Reading on American Lawn Chinese Garden</p> <p>Connecting Worlds by Transportation Mass transit Featherstone on Cars</p>		
Before Week 3 Read Warner on Public Sphere and Alternative Publics			
Week 3 Urban Public Spaces			
7	<p>Public and Monumental Space: Reflections on China Enclaves and Cities (Tianjin) Chinatowns</p>	3	0
8	<p>Tourism</p> <p>Touristic spaces Question: How do cities brand themselves as tourist destinations? Chang, T.C. 2000. 'Theming cities, taming places: insights from Singapore', Geografiska Annaler. Series B, Human Geogeoaphy 82 (1): 35-54.</p> <p>Question: Why are culture and heritage important in tourism? Su, Xiaobo & Peggy Teo 2008. 'Tourism politics in Lijiang, China', Tourism Geographies 10 (2): 150-168.</p>	3	0
9	<p>Global Spaces</p> <p>Theme parks Question: Why is there a proliferation of theme parks? Moore, Alexander 1980. 'Walt Disney World: Bounded Ritual Space and Playful Pilgrimage Center', Anthropological Quarterly 53(4): 207-218.</p> <p>Film: Cowboys in Paradise</p>	3	0

S/N	Topic	Lecture Hours	Tutorial Hours
	<p>Mythic places Question: Why would you want to visit a 'paradise'?</p> <p>Hillman, Ben 2003. 'Paradise under construction: minorities, myths and modernity in Northwestern Yunnan', <i>Asian Ethnicity</i> 4: 175-88.</p>		
10	<p>Sacred places</p> <p>Question: how many sacred spaces are there?</p> <p>Sacred and profane spaces Shiner, Larry E. 1972. 'Sacred space, profane space, human space', <i>Journal of the American Academy of Religion</i> 40(4): 425-436.</p> <p>State and religion Question: why is the state interested in religious spaces?</p> <p>Berger, Peter L. 2002. 'Secularization and de-secularization', in Linda Woodhead (ed.) <i>Religions in the Modern World</i>, pp. 291-298. London and New York: Routledge.</p> <p>Sacred and profane spaces Question: How do you create sacred spaces?</p> <p>Non-official religious spaces</p> <p>Lim, Francis 2012. 'The Eternal Mother and the state: circumventing religious management in Singapore', <i>Asian Studies Review</i> 36(1).</p>	3	0
11	<p>Connections: Reflecting on Space and Place</p> <p>Monday: How are communities formed in virtual spaces?</p> <p>Virtual spaces, community formation</p> <p>Lim, Francis 2009. " 'Donkey Friends' in China: The Internet, Civil Society, and the Emergence of the Chinese Backpacking Community", in Tim Winter, Peggy Teo and T.C. Chang (eds.) <i>Asia on Tour</i>. London and New York: Routledge.</p>	3	0
12	<p>" How do people practice religion online?</p> <p>Online religion, religion online Helland, C. 2000. 'Online-religion/religion-online and virtual communitas', in J.K. Hadden and D.E. Cowan (eds.) <i>Religion on the Internet: research prospects and promises</i>, pp. 205-24. London and Amsterdam: JAI Press/Elsevier Science.</p>	3	0
13	<p>Segmentation and Cohesion in Space Discussing Projects Conclusions</p>	3	0

Learning Outcome

By the end of the course, students will understand some basic concepts related to problems of space and spatiality in the context of East and West.

Student Assessment

Students will be assessed by:

Assignments/Evaluation: Active Prepared Participation

- (1) Paragraph posting night before class every third day (in groups, approx. 1/3 class each day) – 10%
- (2) Weekly reflection (2-3 pages) due on Monday – 45%
- (3) Final project – 45%

Textbooks/References

Tuan, Yi Fu (1977) *Segmented Selves and Worlds*

Lane, Barbara Miller (2006) *Housing and Dwelling: Perspectives on Modern Domestic Architecture*.
London: Routledge